

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01001 241442Z

46

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 /012 W

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O R 241427Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6393

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1001

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (COWLES, MICHAEL AND CONNOLLY, RICHARD)

SUBJ: W/W AMCITS: COWLES AND CONNOLLY

REF: DAMASCUS 398, 277 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH STATES THEIR DECISION NOT RPT NOT TO PERMIT ENTRY OF COWLES AND CONNOLLY. THE CABLE STATES THE DECISION IS BASED ON THE LACK OF RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SYRIAN NATIONALS.

2. THIS DECISION, WHICH WE HAD NOT FORESEEN, COMES AFTER AN EXTENDED SERIES OF EFFORTS BY US TO ARRANGE ENTRY ON ANY TERMS AGREEABLE TO SYRIANS. CONTACTS LAST WEEK WITH MFA CONSULAR SECTION, AND SYMPATHETIC RECEPTION THERE, HAD LED US TO BELIEVE THAT ENTRY WOULD BE PERMITTED AND THAT FINAL OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES WOULD BE JUST A FORMALITY.

3. WHILE THE STATED REASON -- LACK OF RECIPROCITY -- CAN AND WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE AUTHORITIES, IT APPEARS TO US THAT SARG SIMPLY DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENT AT THIS TIME AND THAT DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AT HIGHER LEVEL THAN WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING IT. WE BELIEVE THAT COWLES AND CONNOLLY WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM ENTERING SYRIA IF THEY COULD OBTAIN PASSPORTS.  
PELLETREAU

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## Message Attributes

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